



U.S. BLACK CHAMBERS, INC.

The National Voice of Black Business

**Not affiliated with the National Black Chamber of Commerce*

March 8, 2017

The Honorable Ajit Pai
Chairman
Federal Communications Commission (FCC)
445 12th Street SW Washington, DC 20554

Re: WT Docket No. 16-421, Streamlining Deployment of Small Cell Infrastructure by Improving Wireless Facilities Siting Policies

Dear Chairman Pai:

On behalf of the U.S. Black Chambers, Inc. (USBC), I'm writing to applaud the Chairman for prioritizing an overdue problem: closing the digital divide. I'm also writing to voice my support for the Commission's work thus far to position the U.S. as a leader in the race to next generation wireless networks and ask that it facilitate cooperation among government leaders at the local, state, and federal levels so that these networks can be deployed quickly to the benefit of all Americans.

USBC provides committed, visionary leadership and advocacy in the realization of economic empowerment. Through the creation of resources and initiatives, we support African American Chambers of Commerce and business organizations in their work of developing and growing Black enterprises.

Wireless technology is an essential tool for Black businesses. No longer considered a luxury, wireless broadband has become a lifeline. There are 2.58 million black-owned businesses, across every sector in the United States. We employ over 975,000 people and generate \$150.2 billion in annual revenue. To thrive in the digital economy, our businesses need the power, speed, and reliability of next generation networks, known as 5G. Next generation networks will also power the Internet of Things and smart communities that will generate new jobs and opportunities as well as create new innovative technologies to improve our quality of life.

Better access to wireless networks and more seamless connectivity for all Americans has become a key part of economic opportunity in the modern world. Since 5G will help provide more opportunity to many, we enthusiastically support speedy deployment.

Before we can experience the benefits of 5G, the networks need to be built. With that in mind, the USBC is pleased that the FCC has requested comments on how best to streamline infrastructure policies that incent speedy investment. We encourage the Commission to adopt policies that will continue to close the digital divide, lead to faster deployment, and bring our communities closer to a more connected future.

Thank you for your consideration.

A handwritten signature in dark ink, appearing to read 'R Busby', with a stylized flourish at the end.

Ron Busby, Sr.
President & CEO
U.S. Black Chambers, Inc.